

REMARKS

Claims 20-39 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 20 and 30 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 20-25, 27, 29-33 and 35-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,372,090 (Laapotti '090) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,951,821 (Laapotti '821), Applicants have amended claims 20 and 30, and submit that claims 20-25, 27, 29-33 and 35-39 are now in condition for allowance.

Laapotti '090 discloses a method and apparatus for handling paper or cardboard webs (Figs. 1-4) including felt 1 on which web 12 enters the apparatus. A nip is formed between press shoe 3 and backing roll 4. Water is removed from the web at the pressing nip and web 12 is transferred to the surface of transfer belt 2. Downstream of transfer belt 2 there is arranged a transfer felt 5 that is pressed on transfer belt 2 with section roll 6. The negative pressure produced through air permeable felt 5 attaches web 12 by suction to felt 5. Transfer felt 6 transfers web 12 to a drying felt 8 (column 3, lines 23-35). Downstream of first drying unit 9 is a first unit for applying a treating agent to the surface of web 12 (column 3, lines 45-48). After the first side of web 12 is coated, web 12 is transferred, in a supported manner, to an impingement drying phase and after that web 12 is coated on the other side using the same method. Following the second coating phase there is another impingement drying unit, or units, and after that there may be one or more ordinary cylinder drying units (column 6, lines 20-27).

Laapotti '821 discloses an arrangement and method for transferring a web in a paper machine from a two-felt press nip to a dryer section (Fig. 2). Guide roll 32S of lower felt 30 is arranged so that its position can be adjusted by an adjustment device S and that it is possible to set the magnitude of the curve section of felts 20 and 30 on transfer section roll 27 and on drying

cylinder 82 by way of roll 22S (column 9, line 60 through column 10, line 2). The Examiner has further interpreted the movement of S as moving up and down relative to the other support rolls and that this effectively shortens or lengthens the portion of the support surface in contact with the web.

In contrast claim 20, as amended, recites in part:

said extensible support service being partially supported by a roll, said roll being laterally movable substantially in said web direction.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Laapotti '090, Laapotti '821 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Laapotti '090 and Laapotti '821 disclose a method and apparatus for handling paper or cardboard webs in which a coated web is transferred in a supported manner, the support being extended in a direction substantially perpendicular to the motion of the web. The Examiner in the Office Action, at page 6, indicated that support rolls move up and down relative to other support rolls thereby shortening or lengthening the portion of the belt in contact with the web. This can be seen in the figures, which depict movement that is substantially perpendicular to the direction of the movement of the web. In contrast, Applicants' invention extends the support in the direction of the moving web by moving a roll substantially in the same direction as the material web. Therefore, Laapotti '090, Laapotti '821 and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest an extensible support surface being partially supported by a roll, the roll being laterally moveable substantially in the web direction, as recited in claim 20.

An advantage of Applicants invention is that support is extended in the web direction allowing the support to be retracted and extended without altering the course of the web. Further,

the extensibility of the support by movement of the roll provides incremental support along the length of the web. Additionally, the material web is pre-dried prior to the applying of a viscid medium thereto. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 20 and claims 21-25, 27 and 29 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 30, as amended, recites in part:

said second support roll being laterally moveable substantially in said web direction;

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Laapotti '090, Laapotti '821 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Laapotti '090 and Laapotti '821 disclose a method and apparatus for handling paper or cardboard webs in which a coated web is transferred in a supported manner, the support being extended in a direction substantially perpendicular to the motion of the web. The Examiner in the Office Action, at page 6, indicated that support rolls move up and down relative to other support rolls thereby shortening or lengthening the portion of the belt in contact with the web. This can be seen in the figures, this movement is substantially perpendicular to the direction of the movement of the web. In contrast, Applicants' invention extends the support in the direction of the moving web by moving a roll substantially in the same direction as the material web. Therefore, Laapotti '090, Laapotti '821 and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest the second support roll being laterally moveable substantially in the web direction, as recited in claim 30.

An advantage of Applicants invention is that support is extended in the web direction allowing the support to be retracted and extended without altering the course of the web. Further,

the extensibility of the support by movement of the roll provides incremental support along the length of the web. Additionally, the material web is pre-dried prior to the applying of a viscid medium thereto. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 30 and claims 31-33, 35-39 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Laapotti '090 in view of Laapotti '821 and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,228,216 (Lindsay, et al.). However, claim 28 depends from claim 20, and claim 20 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 28 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 26 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Laapotti '090 in view of Laapotti '821 and in further view of Japanese Patent No. 48-041007. However, claim 26 depends from claim 20, and claim 34 depends from claim 30, and claims 20 and 30 have been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 26 and 34 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

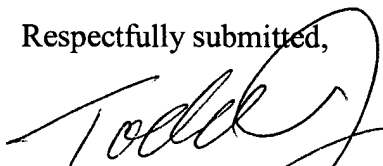
In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally

petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd T. Taylor  
Registration No. 36,945

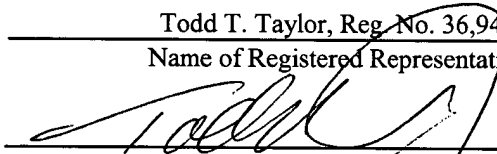
Attorney for Applicant

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: August 18, 2004.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

August 18, 2004

Date

TTT6/ar

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.  
142 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 560  
Avilla, IN 46710  
Telephone: 260-897-3400  
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

Enc.: Return postcard